

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, NEA Division

SUBJECT: Jordan's Arab Legion

1. Tcherin Soobzokov, a North Caucasian emigre in the New York area who talks frequently with the Political Affairs office of the American Committee for Liberation from Bolshevism, reported on 12 March that he had received a letter from a former Prime Minister of Jordan in Amman who has relatives close to Glubb Pasha. The letter reported the grave concern of the many Caucasian emigres in the Arab Legion over their future.

2. It is our understanding that the Arab Legion of Jordan was commanded by the British and to a large extent by emigres from the Soviet Caucasus, chiefly Cherkess, but including some Kabardinians, Ossetians, and Daghestanis. There are (or were) nine full colonels of emigre origin, and some 30-odd battalion commanders. In all it is estimated that of the 15,000 members of Jordan's Arab Legion, 1,000 are Caucasian emigres. The major strength of the Legion is Bedouin, with only a small group of Arabs from the Palestine area. The emigres, who have played a very important role in the Legion, now fear that they will be removed from their command positions in favor of Arab leadership.

3. If further information from Tcherin Soobzokov would be of any value to you, we shall attempt to obtain it.

Chief
International Organizations Division

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